

Chapter 1: Basic Concepts

The Cultural Landscape:
An Introduction to Human Geography

Defining *Geography* – pg 4

- Word coined by Eratosthenes
 - *Geo* = Earth
 - *Graphia* = writing
 - *Geography* thus means “earth writing”

Contemporary Geography pg 4

- Geographers ask *where* and *why*
 - *Location* and *distribution* are important terms
- Geographers are concerned with the tension between *globalization* and *local diversity*
- A division: physical geography and human geography
- ***Why are geographers interested in the worldwide spread of McDonald's?***

Geography's Vocabulary – pg 5

- Place
- Region
- Scale
- Space
- Connections

Key Issue 1 – How Do Geographers Describe Where Things Are?

Maps – pg 6

- Two purposes
 - As reference tools
 - To find locations, to find one's way
 - As communications tools
 - To show the distribution of human and physical features

Early Map Making



What are the makers of maps called?
What is the science of map making called?

Figure 1-2

Maps: Scale – pg 7

- Types of map scale
 - Ratio or fraction
 - Written
 - Graphic
- Projection – pg 8
 - Distortion
 - Shape
 - Distance
 - Relative size
 - Direction

Maps: Scale – pg 7

- Projection – pg 8
 - Distortion
 - Shape
 - Distance
 - Relative size
 - Direction
 - What are the names two types of uninterrupted projections? Pg - 9

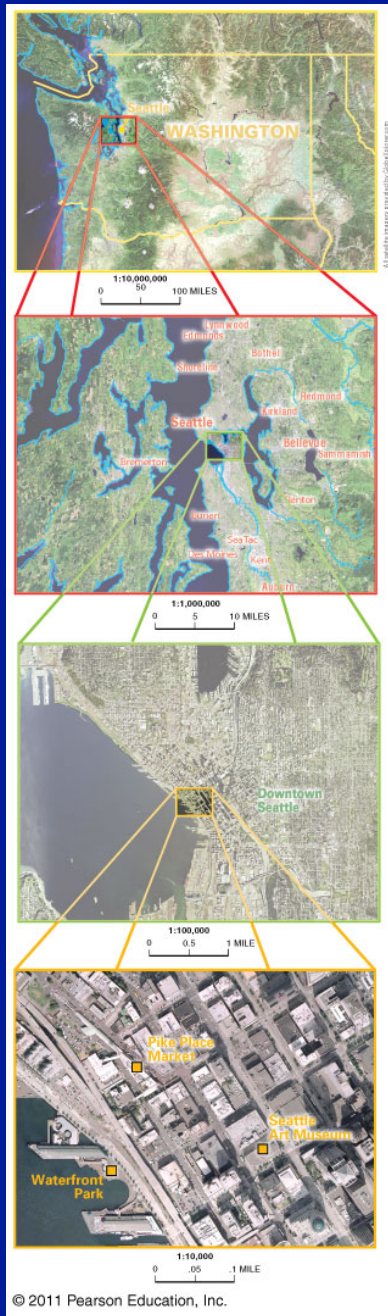


Figure 1-4

U.S. Land Ordinance of 1785 – pg 9

- Township and range system
 - Township = 36 sq. miles on each side
 - North–south lines = principal meridians
 - East–west lines = base lines
 - Range
 - Sections

Township and Range System- pg10

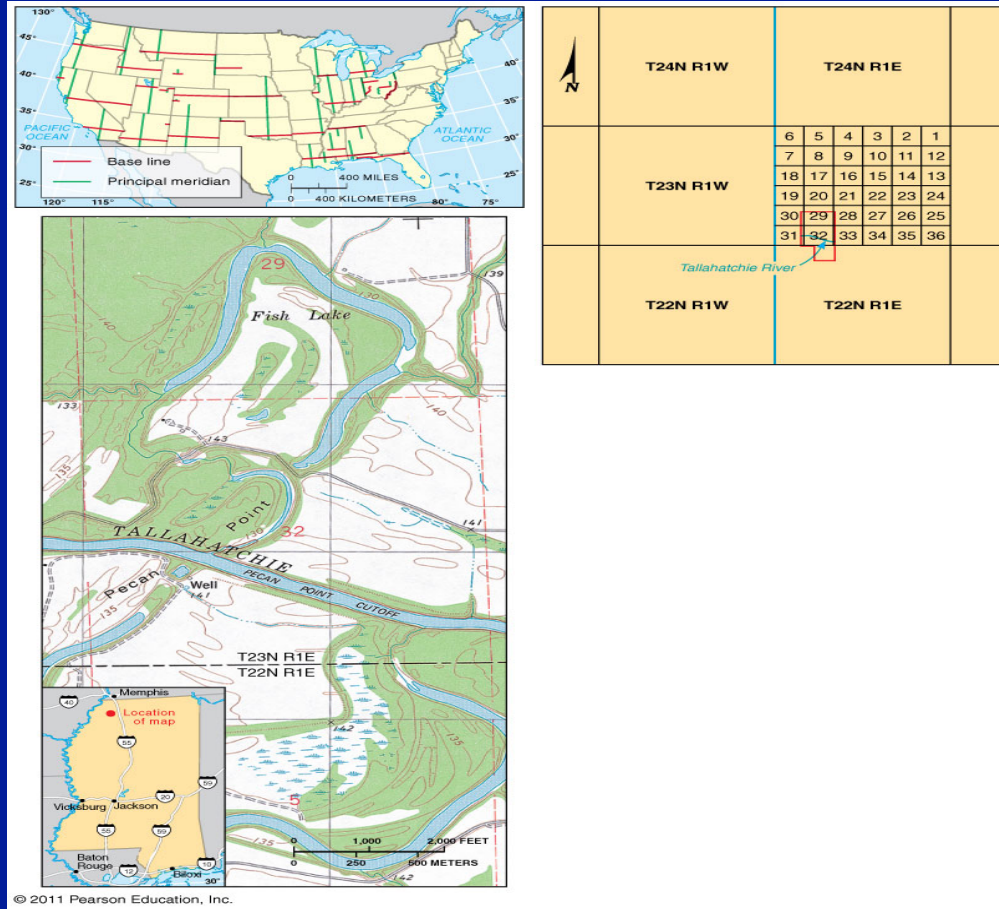


Figure 1-5

Contemporary Tools – pgs 9-12

- Geographic Information Science (GIScience)
 - Global Positioning Systems (GPS)
 - Remote sensing
 - Geographic information systems (GIS)

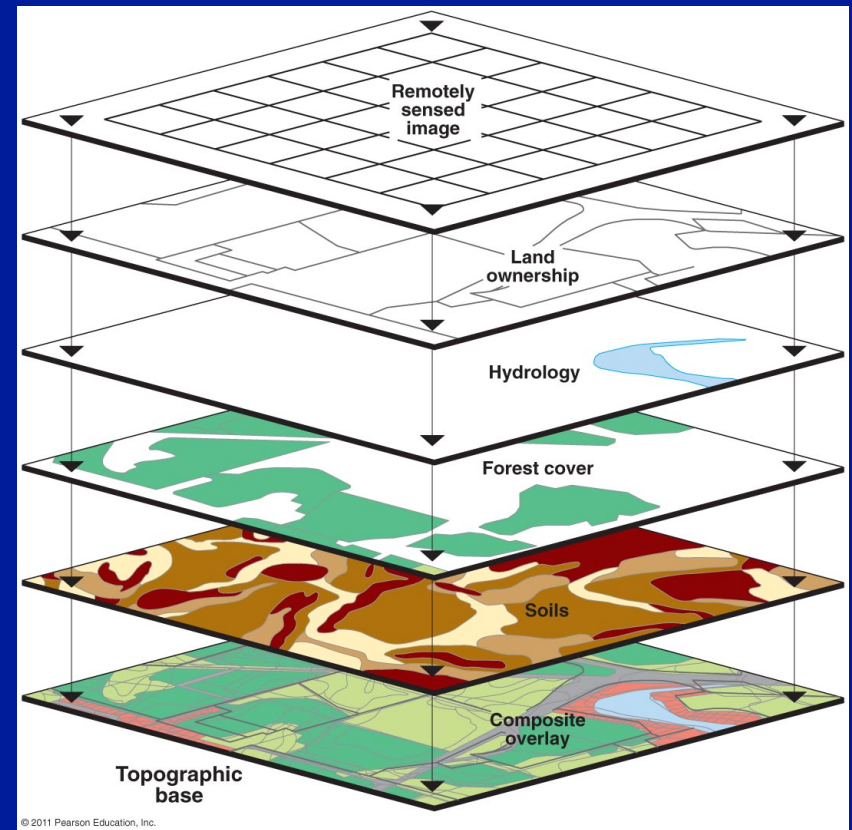


Figure 1-7

A Mash-up – pg 13

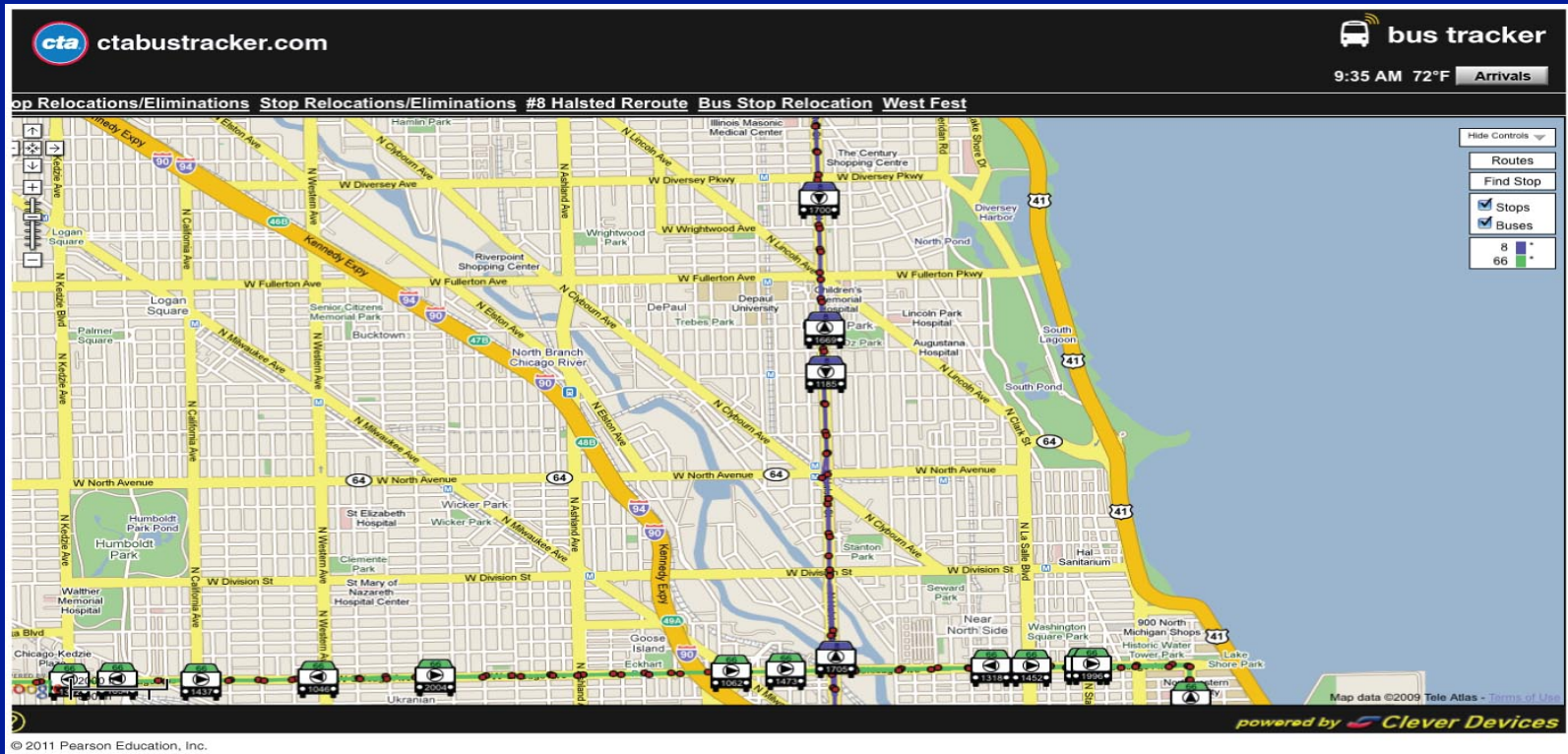


Figure 1-8

Key Issue 2 – Why Is Each Point on Earth Unique? Pg 13

Place: Unique Location of a Feature

- Location
 - Place names
 - Toponym
 - What are the different categories of toponyms?
 - Site – pg 14
 - Situation – pg 14 - 15
 - **Mathematical location – pg 15**
 - What are the names of the elements that make up the grid pattern on earth's surface?

Place: Mathematical Location – pg 15

- Location of any place can be described precisely by meridians and parallels
 - Meridians (lines of longitude)
 - Prime meridian
 - Parallels (lines of latitude)
 - The equator

The Cultural Landscape-pg 17

- A unique combination of social relationships and physical processes
- Regional studies – ?? (Carl Sauer)
- Each region = a distinctive landscape
- People = the most important agents of change to Earth's surface

Types of Regions – pg 17

- Formal (uniform) regions
 - Example: Montana
- Functional (nodal) regions – pg 19
 - Example: the circulation area of a newspaper
- Vernacular (cultural) regions – pg 19
 - Example: the American South
 - ‘mental map’
 - What’s another name for ‘vernacular’ region?

Culture – pg 21

- Origin from the Latin *cultus*, meaning “to care for”
- Two aspects:
 - What people care about
 - Beliefs, values, and customs
 - What people take care of
 - Earning a living; obtaining food, clothing, and shelter

Cultural Ecology – pg 24

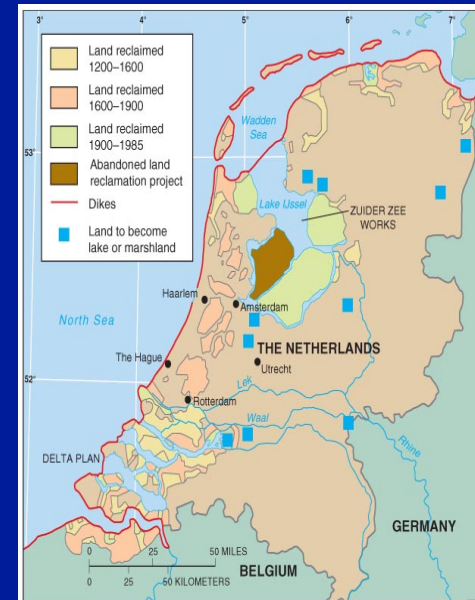
- The geographic study of human–environment relationships
- Two perspectives:
 - Environmental determinism - ??
 - Possibilism
 - Modern geographers generally reject environmental determinism in favor of possibilism

Physical Processes – pg 24 - 25

- Climate
- Vegetation
- Soil
- Landforms
 - These four processes are important for understanding human activities

Modifying the Environment- pg 26 - 27

- Examples
 - The Netherlands
 - Polders – how are they created?
 - The Florida Everglades



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Figure 1-21

Key Issue 3

Why Are Different Places Similar

- Scale – From Local to Global – pg 28-29
- **Globalization of Economy**
 - Economic globalization
 - Transnational corporations
 - Cultural globalization
 - A global culture?

Space: Distribution of Features

- Distribution—three features
 - Density
 - Arithmetic
 - How is a country's arithmetic density calculated?
 - Physiological
 - Agricultural
 - Concentration
 - Pattern

Space-Time Compression – pg 35



Figure 1-29

Spatial Interaction – pg 36

- Transportation networks
- Electronic communications and the “death” of geography?
- Distance decay - ?

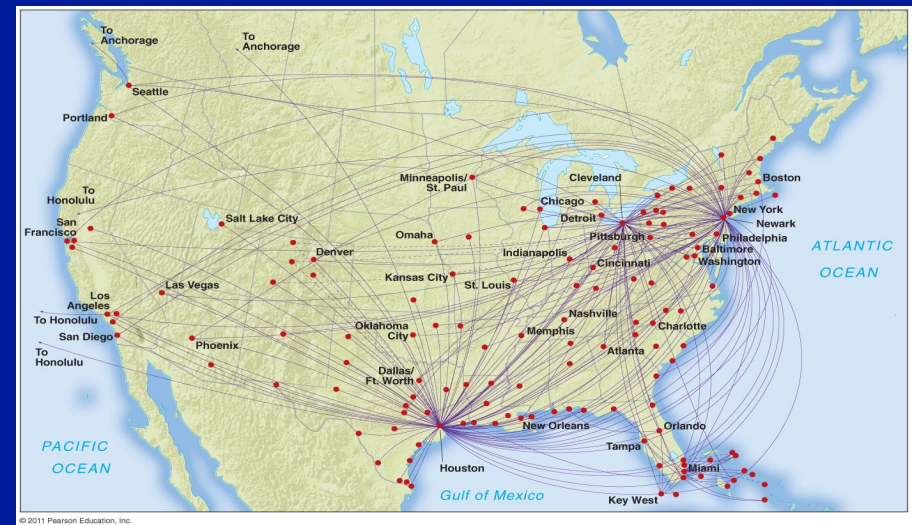


Figure 1-30

Diffusion – pg 39

- The process by which a characteristic spreads across space and over time
- Hearth = source area for innovations
- Two types of diffusion
 - Relocation - ?
 - Expansion - ?
 - Three types: hierarchical, contagious, stimulus
 - Expansion of Culture and Economy
 - Uneven development

Relocation Diffusion: Example

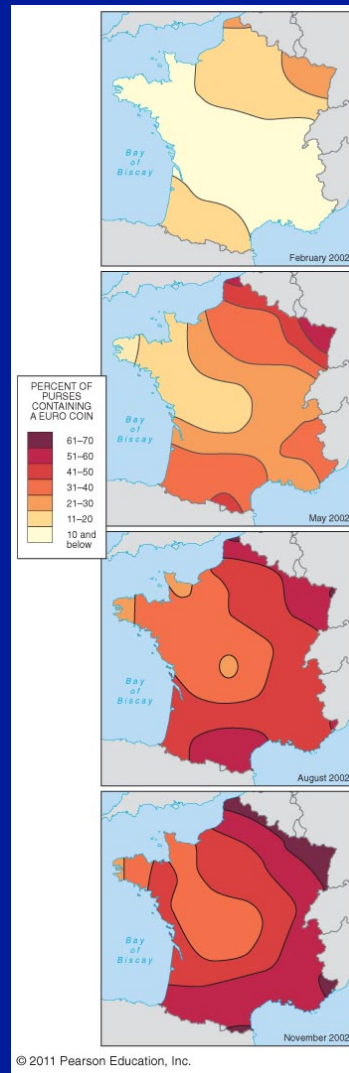


Figure 1-31

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The End.



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Up next: Population